

J. Greer and Mary Mason Home  
Athens, Alabama

Limestone Co.

HABS No. 16-306

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ALA  
42-ATH  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

Project #16-306  
THE J. GREER AND MARY MASON HOME  
Athens, Alabama

ARCHITECTURAL MERIT AND DATA:

This house is very interesting from several viewpoints. It is a very early pioneer house of this section, the builder, Robert Beatty (great-grandfather of the present occupants) being the first settler of Athens. And as far as the main house proper, the rear wing, and the carriage house are concerned, we here have an example of a pioneer dwelling. The rear elevation, side elevation and drawing of carriage house, point this out very well.

Later on, when wealth seemingly was gained by the family, a pretentious front was added to this house, which is in marked contrast to the early pioneer character of the rear. The proportions of the second story front entrance are quite grand and unusual in character.

This house is uniquely and ingeniously planned.

Source of Material:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Administrator, HABS,  
Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

*Revised 1936, H.C.F.*

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HISTORICAL DATA:

Built about 1826.  
No record of the architect.

Ownership:

Robert Beaty built this home. He seems to have intended the building for a school, but to have changed his mind and completed it as a residence.

J. Greer Mason and his sister Mary Mason now own and live in this house. These are the great-grand-children of the original owner and builder, Robert Beaty.

Civil War Period:

Federal officers were quartered in this house during the Civil War. As a result, it seems to have been spared the rough usage and plunder of many other homes in this section.

Source of Material:

Eugene Knight of the measuring force.  
Miss Mary Mason, Athens, Alabama.

*Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.*

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